

Biking Minneapolis Streets

Ride in a straight line. Avoid weaving between parked cars. Ride at least 4 feet away from parked cars to avoid the Door Zone (see below).

Obey all traffic regulations. Riding predictably and following the law are the keys to safe bicycling on Minneapolis streets. Knowing the rules helps all road users properly anticipate and react to each other.

STOP

Scan for oncoming vehicles turning left, especially if you are following another vehicle. If you can see oncoming vehicles, they are more likely to see you.

Scan right at intersections, alleys, and driveways. Drivers don't always check for bikes when pulling onto a street. Watch especially for drivers whose view is obscured.

When a trail or sidewalk parallels a street, **look ahead and especially over your shoulder** for cars turning onto a street you are about to cross.

Never ride against traffic. Riding against traffic is dangerous and illegal. Motorists and pedestrians are not looking for cyclists riding the wrong way down a street.

When necessary, use entire travel lane. Move toward the center when the lane is too narrow for motorists to pass safely with at least 3 feet of clearance or when you're moving at the same speed as traffic.

Don't pass a truck or bus on their right side. They can't see you and may cut you off.

When going straight through an intersection, don't hug the right side of the road, as cars may cut you off making a right turn around you. Stay closer to the center of your lane.

Use left-turn lanes to make left turns. If you can't change lanes to turn left, ride across the street to the other side and align your bike with traffic (also known as a **box turn**).

"Classic Left"

"Box Turn"

To cross an intersection, use the lane farthest to the right that points to where you are going. Follow lane markings to cross an intersection.

The Door Zone is the 4-foot area along the side of a parked car where an opening door can hit and seriously injure a cyclist.

Adults without children should avoid riding on the sidewalk. It's easier to see and be seen on the street. Parked cars and bushes can block your view and drivers' views.

If you do ride on a sidewalk, yield to pedestrians and travel at a pedestrian's speed at intersections.

Riding on sidewalks is illegal in business districts and on the U of M campus.

When necessary, advise others when passing. Sound your bell or horn or call out when approaching pedestrians or slower cyclists. Then pass safely on the left leaving plenty of room.

There are three kinds of trails in Minneapolis

- 1 Unmarked (shared) trails.** Mostly less-used trails; cyclists and pedestrians share the trail. Pedestrians should keep to the right.
- 2 Separated trails on one pavement.** Cyclists and pedestrians have separate lanes. Only leave your lane to pass when it is safe to do so.
- 3 Separated trails for bikes only.** Where pedestrians have a separate walkway. Please keep to the appropriate path segment.

Biking Minneapolis Trails

Trail crossings. Obey traffic signs and markings on streets and trails. Proceed through a trail crossing only when you are sure all lanes of motor traffic have stopped.

Keep to the right. Yield to pedestrians and slower moving traffic except when passing. Slow down when there are lots of users on the trail.

The speed limit on all Park Board trails is 10 mph.

